



Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting

Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

Strong, joined-up leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multiagency safeguarding, bringing together various organisations and agencies. It is therefore important that the head of each statutory safeguarding partner agency plays an active role in these arrangements.

The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP) are: Chief Executives of Local Authorities, Chief Executives of the ICBs, and Chief Officers of Police Forces.

In Warwickshire, the lead safeguarding partners are:

- Chief Executive of Warwickshire County Council, Monica Fogarty.
- Chief Executive of NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board, Philip Johns.
- Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police, Alex Franklin-Smith
- Education: Sharon Hillyard - Headteacher, Exhall Cedar infants Nuneaton & Bedworth. Matt Smith - Assistant Head/DSL, Nicholas Chamberlain School in Nuneaton & Bedworth Samantha Godfrey - Director of Safeguarding, Stowe Valley MAT in Warwick District Peter Hawkins - Assistant Head, St Paul's CofE Primary in Warwick District

As leaders of their organisations and the statutory safeguarding partners, it is for LSPs to assure themselves that their local arrangements are effective and keep children safe.

Working Together states that the LSP and DSPs should act as a team and should meet sufficiently regularly.

As outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, in Warwickshire, the four Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) delegate their functions while retaining accountabilities for all actions and decisions made on behalf of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The LSPs set the strategic plan and vision for the Partnerships priorities whilst the Delegated Safeguarding Partners provide the operational delivery of the priorities.

2. Purpose

- To support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where children, young people and families are safeguarded, and their welfare promoted.
- To maintain an effective link with Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Meeting (WSCPEM) and its groups and sub-groups.

The WSC Partnership Meeting will be chaired and attended by the Delegated Safeguarding Partners:

- Police, Detective Superintendent, Jill Fowler.
- WCC, Executive Director for CYP, Nigel Minns.
- ICB, Chief Nurse, Ellie Monkhouse.
- Education, Director of Education, Johnny Kyriacou.

The DSPs are responsible for:

- Delivery and monitoring of WSCP's priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in Warwickshire, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
- Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.
- The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.
- Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews, with the impact of learning from local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
- The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
- Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need.

The DSPs, working together, assume primary responsibility for implementing the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and providing leadership to ensure they are effective in bringing together relevant partner agencies.

The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership is responsible for:

- Having oversight of all WSCP activity delivered through the groups and subgroups and the Chair will task pieces of work accordingly
- Appropriately challenging organisations and agencies and holding one and another to account effectively
- Ensuring that learning from reviews and audits is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and young people can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Ensuring that information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate decision making for children and young people
- Ensuring early identification and analysis of safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- Providing an opportunity to discuss/agree recommendations/actions/learning emerging from the focused reviews
- Contributing to the work of the Groups and Subgroups
- Supporting the delivery of the strategic priorities and ensuring that the selected work priorities are delivered in such a way that they make a positive impact on the outcomes for children and young people in Warwickshire.
- Maintaining clear lines of communication with the Independent Scrutineer
- Maintaining clear lines of communication with the Delegated Safeguarding Partner Chair to the Executive Partnership Chair
- Being accountable for individual contributions to the work of the Groups and Subgroups and individual child safeguarding case reviews and any other local learning reviews
- Focus on driving improvement of safeguarding practices and delivering the agreed priorities and ensuring practice of police, health, education, and local authority children service professionals is as effective as it can be to help and protect children.
- Provide evidence around the quality/performance of multi-agency practice
- providing analyses of trends in practice from intelligent interpretation of data, to assess the effectiveness of help being provided to children and families across the early help and safeguarding systems in Warwickshire
- determining risk and maintaining the WSCP risk register
- report on the performance of the support team and use of allocated budgets
- consulting and involving children, young people and their families

3. Chairing and Quoracy

The Partnership will be chaired by one of the four DSPs (rotated on an annual basis.) To be quorate either the Chair or Vice Chair must be in attendance and there should be a senior representative from each of the safeguarding partners (Warwickshire County Council Children's Social Care, NHS, Education, and the Police)

The Chair of the Partnership will:

- Work closely with the WSCP Service Manager to prepare for meetings and set agendas.
- Develop strategic links, support, and hold to account all LSPs in fulfilling their safeguarding duties for children.
- Ensure that local arrangements are designed to work collaboratively and effectively by encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between the LSPs, DSPs, independent scrutiny role and MASA subgroups.
- Chair the meetings of the DSPs, including any additional meetings convened as a response to specific and exceptional circumstances, with the help of the business manager and independent scrutiny role.
- Offer appropriate challenge to ensure that the partners are accountable, and that the local arrangements operate effectively.
- Actively monitor individual attendance by group members
- Provide progress reports to the LSPs and always identify and report on any barriers to the delivery of the WSCP priorities.
- Model appropriate behaviours and language.

4. Frequency of meetings

The Partnership will meet quarterly. All meetings will be supported by the WSCP Business Unit Team, and a record of meetings will be maintained and at the discretion of the Chair having exercised due caution in relation to data protection considerations, be published on the website.

5. Membership

The membership of the Partnership includes representation from the following organisations:

- Warwickshire County Council
 - Social Care.
 - Public Health.
 - Fire & Rescue Service.
 - Youth Justice Service.
 - Education Services.
 - Lead Member, Portfolio Holder – Children's Services.
 - Lead Member, Portfolio Holder – Education.

- Warwickshire Police.
- NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (formerly known as a Clinical Commissioning Group).
- Education (Providers).
- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- NHS England.
- West Midlands Ambulance Service.
- Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.
- George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust.
- University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust.
- South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust.
- North Warwickshire Borough Council.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
- Rugby Borough Council.
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council.
- Warwick District Council.
- National Probation Service.
- Youth Justice Service.
- Barnardo's.
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS).
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire ("OPCC").
- Equip (Equality & Inclusion Partnership).
- Third Sector.
- Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA).
- Healthwatch.
- Faith Groups.
- Other partners who are invited to attend as appropriate.

The Legal Advisor to WSCP will attend meetings as required to provide professional advice to the Partnership.

Representatives of each organisation will need to be people with a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people within their organisation. They should be able to:

- Speak for their organisation with authority.
- Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters.
- Hold their organisation to account.

In the event that their representative is unable to attend meetings, members are required to nominate a suitable alternative representative who has the authority to commit their organisation to decisions.

6. Reporting structure

The Partnership Group will report to WSCP Executive Partnership on the progress of their work against the strategic priorities and address any issues arising from their work.

7. Terms of Reference Review

The Terms of Reference for the partnership meeting will be subject to a minimum of an annual review.

Date agreed:	December 2024
Date for Review:	December 2025